

SEP 05 2006

REMARKS


In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on August 4, 2006 (Paper No. 20060724), the applicant elects the species corresponding to Figure 5. Claims 1-3 are readable on the elected species of Figure 5 (in conjunction with Figures 1A-3B).

As the undersigned noted to the Examiner on a brief telephone discussion on September 5, 2006, claim 1 includes an image input unit which adds private information at the time of the photographing an image. This roughly corresponds to blocks S9-S12 of Figure 4, which the Examiner considered to be a separate species. However, the invention includes the capability of **both** (1) adding private information for a captured image and (2) using such private information to control the reproduction of the image. For example, the description of Figure 4 from page 17, line 2 through page 19, line 3 is immediately followed by the statement, "The reproduction of the information thus obtained [from the method of Figure 4] is explained with reference to the flowcharts shown in FIGS. 5 to 7." Page 12, lines 4-6 Therefore, the specification discusses the use of any one of the methods of Figures 5-7 on information obtained in accordance with the method of Figure 4. Since the acts of Figure 5 can follow the acts of Figure 4, these methods are not directed to different species.

In any event, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner examine the invention recited in claims 1-3 and pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

September 5, 2006

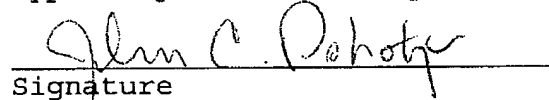
  
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September 5, 2006

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